

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account

Washington's aquatic lands are rich in natural resources and also have great commercial, recreational, and aesthetic value. The state's first leaders recognized their worth and affirmed public ownership of these lands in the Washington State Constitution. Simply described, aquatic lands lie at the bottom of navigable water bodies, such as Puget Sound, and include the surrounding shorelands, harbor areas, and tidelands.

Purpose

In 1984, the Washington State Legislature created the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) to ensure that money generated from aquatic lands was used to protect and enhance those lands.

ALEA grants may be used for the acquisition, restoration, or improvement of aquatic lands for public purposes, and for providing and improving public access to aquatic lands and associated waters.

Where Does the Money Come From?

The state Department of Natural Resources manages the state's 2.4 million acres of aquatic lands and raises revenue through activities such as leasing waterfront sites for marinas and selling harvest rights for geoduck clams.

Accomplishments

In 2003, management of the grant program was transferred from the Department of Natural Resources to the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). Since then, IAC has awarded more than \$10 million in grants to local governments, tribes, and state agencies for 21 projects around the state.

Grant Evaluation Process

IAC evaluates applications in a competitive process every two years. The IAC then submits a prioritized list of projects to the Governor and Legislature for final approval.



The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife used an \$87,000 grant to preserve and restore 11 acres of estuarine salt marsh and shoreline near Belfair. The land provides an undisturbed migratory pathway for summer chum and Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Who Can Apply for a Grant?

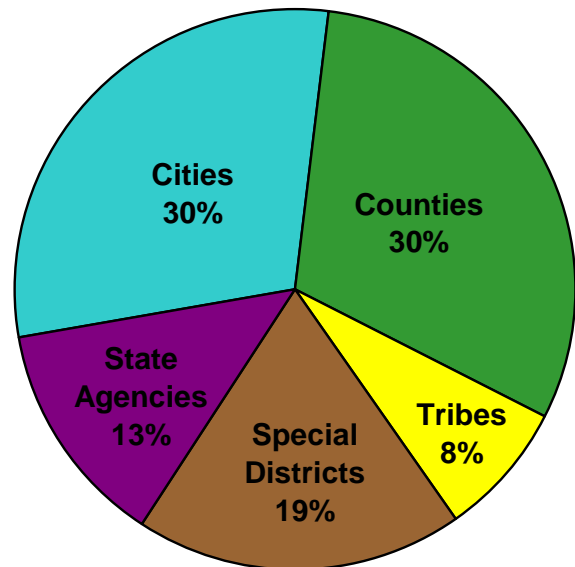
Local governments, tribes, and state agencies may apply as long as they are legally authorized to acquire and develop public open space, habitat, or recreation lands. Applicants must provide a minimum 50 percent match.

Grant Recipients

22003-05

Bellingham
Burien
Clallam County
Clark County
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kent
King County
King County Conservation District
Kitsap County
Port of Seattle
Poulsbo
Seattle
Skagit County Dike District #12
Tacoma
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

**Percent of \$10.3 Million in Funding
2003-2005***



Washington Department of Natural Resources



Selling the harvest rights for geoduck clams raises revenue for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account.

*Grants were awarded in 2003 and 2005 by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, and includes funding for 2003-2007.